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Featured by [EPA](#) , a member of the U.S. Global Change Research Program

Is there a link between climate change and violent crimes? Scientists at EPA and the Emory University School of Medicine are investigating whether hotter temperatures affect violent crimes, such as assault, robbery, rape, and murder.

In a recent paper published in the Western Journal of Emergency Medicine, [Temperature and Violent Crime in Dallas, Texas: Relationships and Implications of Climate Change](#), researchers examined the relationship between daily temperature and daily incidence of violent crime in Dallas from 1993 to 1999.

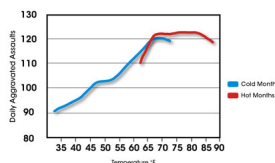
According to analyses of violent crime and temperature in Dallas TX, researchers found that aggravated assaults and other violent crimes decrease at higher temperatures. Daily rates of violent crime increase as temperatures rise in the low to moderate range, but begin to level off at temperatures above 80°F, and actually decrease above 90°F.

To explain their findings, the researchers hypothesized that when it gets very hot people stay indoors where it is cooler. As a result, street crime and other crimes of opportunity are decreased.

Researchers also noted this is just one city and one study. Would they get the same results in different cities with different ranges of daily temperatures? To answer this question, the scientists are conducting analyses of multiple U.S. cities: Atlanta, Denver, Houston, and Chicago and re-doing the analysis for Dallas using more recent data.

To read the full article on the EPA website, please [click here.](#)

Daily Aggravated Assaults by Mean Temperature for Hot (May-September) and Cold Months (October-April), Dallas TX, 1993-1999



According to analyses of violent crime and temperature in Dallas TX, [EPA scientists](#) found that aggravated assaults and other violent crimes decrease at high ambient temperatures.